

fungal). These three subtypes, by definition, share a feature which makes them useful in the present methods, that is, the ability to elicit an immune response. (See the specification at page 9, lines 28-29: "The antigen may be any molecular moiety against which an increase or decrease in immune response is sought.") The antigens listed in the Markush group are not patentable over each other in the context of the claimed methods, nor should restriction among them be required.

The Examiner has required further election of a single disclosed species in claims 31 and 32. From the list of disclosed tumor associated antigens in those claims, Applicants elect the species represented by Melan-A, with traverse, on the same grounds as discussed above. The arguments set forth above in support maintaining a Markush group consisting of "viral, bacterial and fungal" antigens is equally applicable to support maintaining a Markush group consisting of a list of specific tumor-associated antigens.

IV. Amendment

Please add the following claims:

- a1*
67. The method of claim 35, wherein the activating agent is selected from the group consisting of TNF α , an anti-CD-40 antibody and a toll-like receptor (TLR) agonist.
 68. The method of claim 67, wherein the TLR agonist is RP-105.
 69. The method of claim 67, wherein the TLR agonist is a nucleic acid containing an unmethylated CpG motif.

V. Remarks

Applicants have added new dependent claims 67-69. The new claims depend from existing claim 35 and enumerate specific examples of "activating agents" as set forth in that claim. The new claims find support in the specification, for example at page 10, line 35 – page 11, line 8 and in the original claims. They contain no new matter.

Nor, Applicants submit, do claims 66-70 fall outside the invention the Examiner has classified as Group VI, consisting of claims 21-36. As claim 35 introduces the additional method step of administering an activating agent with the chemokine, no additional burden is presented by the enumeration of specific embodiments of said activating agent.

Entry of the amendment and early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Jaye P. McLaughlin
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Registration No.: 41,211
Telephone No.: (908) 298-4299

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on February 25, 2002

Jaye P. McLaughlin
Registered Representative


Signature

February 28, 2002

Date of Signature

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SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION
Patent Department, K-6-1, 1990
2000 Galloping Hill Road
Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033-0530
Date: February 28, 2002